

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 are rejected. No amendments have been made.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13, and 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Johansson, et al., WO 99/03036. Each of independent claims 1, 13, 20, and 23 is included in this rejection.

Independent claim 1 includes the following limitation:

a client device configured to access a first service of the plurality of services by accessing a service point map on the client device to obtain the corresponding service address for the first service, wherein the service point map comprises a listing of at least one service of the plurality of services available on the network and the corresponding service address for each service of the at least one service

(emphasis added),

as required by claim 1. The Office Action indicates that the client device claimed corresponds to item 102 of Choquier, and the “service point map...” corresponds to the RPC service table 52 of Johansson, which is shown on RPC client 30. (Office Action dated September 14, 2004, page 3, paragraph 5.) Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action, page 3, paragraph 5, states the following:

... [W]hen a user opens a service (which is accessing the service ...), the gateway is accessing the service point map. Choquier's client machine is accessing the service by using the gateway to access the service point map, which is within the scope of a client device accessing a first service by accessing a service point map) to obtain the corresponding service address for the first service.... Choquier has not taught where the service point map is located on the client device.

Applicants respectfully point out that the limitation “the client device is configured ... to obtain the corresponding service address for the first service” is not considered in the above rejection. The client device obtains the service address, which is not the case in Choquier. The

gateway 136 of Choquier handles all communication with the actual service on behalf of the client, which does not need or use the service address.

Nor does the RPC client 30 of Johansson obtain the service address. Applicants respectfully submit that RPC service table 52 does not contain service addresses. If RPC service table 52 contained service addresses, there would be no need for RPC server 20. RPC server 20 forwards requests from RPC client 30 to the particular RPC service called by the application program running on RPC client 30.

Furthermore, the description of RPC service table 52 does not include a discussion of service addresses. RPC service table 52 is stored in a memory (e.g., RAM) and has, at corresponding addresses, a plurality of RPC items represented by items 60A – 60K. Each item has as one of its fields an RPC service identifier as a key, e.g., keys 62A – 62K being shown in Fig. 2. (Johansson, page 6, lines 4-8.) The key 62 is used to retrieve a translation description based on this key from translation description memory 51. (Johansson, page 6, lines 26-30.) Each translation description includes instructions or criteria for enabling a translation from the higher level language of the RPC client 30 to a protocol P that is used to communicate with an RPC server 20. (See Johansson, page 7, lines 1-3). RPC server 20 interprets the protocol P-formatted message and forwards the message to a particular one of the RPC services in accordance with the request from the calling applications program. (See Johansson, page 7, lines 16-19). The particular RPC service which was invoked by the calling applications program prepares a response, which is returned to the calling applications program. (See Johansson, page 7, lines 19-23).

Because Choquier and Johansson, standing alone or in combination, do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Independent claim 13 has a similar limitation to that of claim 1:

providing the table listing to a client computer system configured to ...obtain the corresponding location information for the second service.

Accordingly, Choquier and Johansson, standing alone or in combination, do not teach all of the elements of independent claim 13, and independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-19 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With reference to independent claim 20, the Office Action states that claims 20-22 are rejected for the same reason as claims 1-3 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that, as with independent claims 1 and 13, Choquier and Johansson do not teach “the client process is configured to … obtain the corresponding location information for the first service,” as required by independent claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable for at least this reason.

With reference to independent claim 23, the Office Action states that claims 23-25 are rejected for the same reason as claims 20-22. Applicants respectfully submit that, as with independent claims 1 and 13, Choquier and Johansson do not teach “the client process is configured to … obtain the corresponding location information for the first service,” as required by independent claim 23. Accordingly, independent claim 23 and its dependent claims 24 and 25 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier in view of Johansson. As a dependent claim depending from independent claim 1, claim 4 has been shown to be allowable in light of the combination of Choquier and Johansson for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier in view of Johansson and further in view of Fujimoto, JP02001117932A. As dependent claims depending from independent claims 1 and 13, claims 6 and 14 have been shown to be allowable over the combination of Choquier and Johansson for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier in view of Johansson and in further view of Al-Ghosein, et al., U.S. Patent 6,473,791. As dependent claims depending from independent claim 1, claims 7 and 8 have been shown to be allowable in light of the combination of Choquier and Johansson for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier in view of Johansson in further view of Bartle, et al., U. S. Patent No. 6,188,888. As dependent claims 10-12 depending from independent claim 1, claims 10-12 have been shown to be allowable in light of the combination of Choquier and Johansson for at least the foregoing reasons.

In summary, each of independent claims 1, 13, 20, and 23 has been shown to be allowable, and the allowability of dependent claims 2-12, 14-19, 21-22, and 24-25 follows. Accordingly, each of claims 1-25 is allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

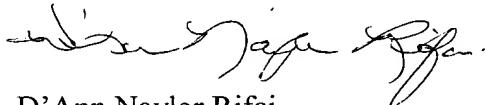
In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2004.


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12/14/04
Date of Signature

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